

## BRITISH NAVAL AUTHORITIES ADOPT MORE VIGOROUS POLICY

E-Boats Hunt Out German Warships, Even in Eastern Baltic—Dardanelles Campaign Slow, But Resources Seem To Make Outcome Sure

The war at sea has entered upon a new phase, says an article in the New York Evening Sun. It would seem that the British naval authorities had tired of waiting for the German fleet to come out and be sunk. It is taking a leaf out of Germany's book and sending submarines into the Baltic to break up German control of that inland sea and wear down the German fighting force by attrition. This was what the German torpedo craft of all sorts were to do to the English at the very beginning of the war, according to the Von Tirpitz program. We have shown how the readiness and magnificent organization of the "Grand Fleet"—as the Allies' papers are calling it—rendered the scheme hopeless before it could even be attempted. The exploit of a British submarine near the Gulf of Riga and other recent activities show that the plan reversed is a serious possibility.

### Helpless Men Attacked

The penetration of the Baltic through the mined Scandinavian channels is one of the most sensational exploits of the war. It fully matches the similar feat of a British submarine in the Dardanelles some months ago when a Turkish warship was blown up. The daring displayed in running mine fields, shore batteries and patrol vessels is of the most reckless kind. The skill shown in evading so many perils is extraordinary. Whether more than one undersea boat got through is uncertain, but certainly more than one captain and crew were willing to take the risk, for besides the craft which did such execution at the Gulf of Riga, the E-13 has been heard from. Her running ashore on the Danish island of Saltholm was the occasion of one of the most brutal and cowardly acts of the war when several German destroyers fired on her men struggling in the water after they had abandoned her. Her mission failed but her fate proves that the British fleet is not content to remain a static force. It is going after the enemy at its own time and in its own way. Its activity is further shown in the renewed bombardment of the German submarine bases at Zeebrugge and Ostend. This last move may be regarded as showing that heretofore shortage of munitions extended to the fleet as well as the British army. It has probably been thought unwise to waste shell lest something like a general engagement might suddenly supervene. Now presumably, there is plenty of ammunition, so the work of rendering the conquered Belgian coastline useless to its tenants is resumed.

There is also a great waking up in the Dardanelles area of hostilities. The sinking of the British transport Royal Edward with the loss of nearly a thousand lives, including about 700 soldiers, was the first loss sustained by England in the carrying of far more than a million men from all parts of the world to the various theatres of war. The disaster was the work of a German submarine. It was accepted in England as an inevitable incident. There are said to be three German submarines in Turkish waters. They have been making Smyrna their headquarters, but a squadron of Allied ships has recently bombarded that port, destroying the submarine base and the petrol station, thus probably putting a curb on future raiding activity.

### Hard Blows at Turks

Meantime the British submarines have not been idle. The Turkish battleship Haireddin Barbarossa and numerous other vessels have been sunk in the Sea of Marmora, and torpedoes have been fired at lighters lying alongside the arsenal at Constantinople. The Turks can no longer use their protected sea as a highway for forwarding reinforcements and supplies to their army defending the peninsula of Gallipoli. But the supreme fact is the transportation of a powerful Italian expedition to take part in the forcing of the Dardanelles and the capture of Constantinople. It is said that 100,000 men have been despatched. Of course their safe arrival and continuous support from Italy is a result of overwhelming command of the seas. But in this the Italian and French navies share the responsibility and the credit with that of England.

The entire Dardanelles undertaking is essentially a naval performance. It was initiated by warships. Its prosecution by land forces is made possible by sea power. Naval guns aid in every forward move of the troops, and when the fortifications of the straits are rendered innocuous the capture of Constantinople will be effected by the allied fleet steaming across the Sea of Marmora and threatening the ancient city with its guns. There has been and still is, even in France and England, a great deal of misunderstanding about this enterprise. No doubt there were some blunders in its inception; it has proved far more dif-

icult than was at first expected; the postponement of its main result has caused disappointment. But in reality it has been one of the profoundest strategic conceptions of the war, the idea of a great military mind.

Despite the delay and disappointment, nobody now seriously doubts that the objective will be attained. Constantinople will be taken, the gates of the Black Sea will be opened and warm water seaports will be secured to Russia during the coming winter. Thus will she be assured of ample supplies of munitions from without; but further, she will be able to pay for them with exports, especially with grain, so much needed by her allies. This outcome will fully justify the cost in lives, in money and in powder and shell since the first landing was made on April 25.

But apart from the probability of a victorious outcome, the Dardanelles operations have been justified by their results. To England, their primary reward was the instant cessation of the campaign of the Turks against Egypt, most dangerous features of which were the incitement to revolt among the disaffected young Egyptian leaders and the possibility of Mohammedan unrest in the regions of Africa—French, Italian and British—wherein the Senussi are a formidable element, flaring out in the form of a jihad. From the moment an attack was made on the approaches to Stamboul the Turks dropped all their aggressive schemes and concentrated all their strength upon a desperate defense of their European capital. Russia profited almost equally with England, for, although she still keeps a small army operating to the west of the Black Sea and in northern Armenia, the reduction of Turkish effort in that field has enabled her to send large masses of troops from the Caucasus to retard the great drives of Hindenburg and Mackensen. Thus the Dardanelles struggle, which has not cost her a man, has been worth to Russia at least 200,000 men in the main field of operations. Besides these military advantages to England and Russia, the campaign has had momentous political consequences. It was doubtless a strong factor in bringing Italy to the side of the Allies. It has had an appreciable influence upon the policy of Greece and no small effect upon Bulgaria and Rumania. Should one or more of these give adhesion presently to the Allies' cause the Dardanelles venture, whatever its minor mistakes, may be regarded as the determining factor in the Eastern situation.

### No Compensation.

Although there has been no general fleet action since the opening of the war, the losses in ships have been considerable. To Germany and Austria such losses remain uncompensated by any appreciable military advantage. The British authorities declare and most assuredly are justified in believing that their naval losses are a trivial price for the immense success of the year at sea. This is all the more true since it is an undisputed certainty that the British navy is much stronger today than it was when the war began. A tabulation of the naval losses of all the belligerents made on August 1, the end of the year, showed that down to that date Great Britain had lost 32 ships; France, 13; Russia, 5; and Japan, 3; total, 53, with an aggregate of about 300,000 tons. It may be remarked that the list includes the Dreadnought Audacious of 23,000 tons. It is now well understood that this ship was not lost but only damaged, and she is again in commission. On the Teutonic side the losses were: Germany, 67; Turkey, 5; Austria, 4; total, 76, with a total tonnage considerably above 200,000. In number of vessels the German loss is vastly greater than the Allies but in tonnage it is very much less. The reason is that many of the lighter German vessels were caught at sea; the heavy ones have kept in safety behind their booms and mine fields and shore batteries. During the current month the British loss has been very small, a light cruiser or two and a submarine. The Germans and Turks have both suffered heavily, as witness the battle of the Gulf of Riga and the sinking of the Haireddin Barbarossa.

The British losses have beyond question been more than offset by new units completed and commissioned. When the war broke out the following vessels were so far advanced in construction that their readiness within the year was assured:

Battleships—Queen Elizabeth, Warrior, Valiant, Barham (4), all of 27,500 tons and 25-knot speed, carrying eight 15-inch and sixteen 6-inch guns each.

Royal Sovereign, Royal Oak, Revenge, Resolution, Ramillies (5), all of 25,500 tons, 21-knot speed and carrying the same armament as the above.

Light Cruisers—Five of the Ar-

thusa class of 3,600 tons, 30-knot speed and armed with two 6-inch and six 4-inch guns.

Eight of the Calliope class of 4,000 tons and 30-knot speed; armed with three 6-inch and six 4-inch guns.

Destroyers—Ten of the M class.

Sundry submarines of varied types.

### Naval Plans.

France had three Dreadnoughts, three destroyers and sixteen submarines nearly ready in August, 1914, and Russia had five Dreadnoughts, nine destroyers and eighteen submarines approaching completion. Besides these accessions the entire Italian navy, including two new Dreadnoughts, has been added to the Allies' maritime forces. Against all these the German navy had warships so far advanced that there are probably by this time in active service the following:

Battleship—Kronprinz, 25,500 tons; 21.5 knots, ten 12-inch and fourteen 5.9-inch guns.

Battle Cruiser—Lutzow, 28,000 tons; 28 knots, eight 12-inch and fourteen 5.9-inch guns.

Light Cruisers—Regensburg, Graudenz, 4,900 tons; 28 knots, twelve 4.1-inch guns.

An unknown number of destroyers and submarines.

The great positive or active achievement of the allied navies—mainly the British—has been the clean sweep made of German and Austrian commerce from all seas save the Baltic. According to "Lloyd's Register Book" for 1914-15 Germany possessed 2,090 steam vessels, aggregating 5,134,720 tons, and 298 sailing ships of 100 tons or upward, aggregating 324,576 tons. This gives a grand total of 2,338 ships and 5,459,296 tons. Austria-Hungary had 433 steam and 12 sailing ships, totalling 1,055,719 tons. With the exception of the limited number of vessels plying between German Baltic and Scandinavian ports all these ships have been captured or driven from the seas. A few have been sunk. Many prizes of war are sailing under the flags of England and France. A great number are safe but idle in the shelter of foreign harbors. The rest are laid up in home ports. In 1911 (the latest complete figures in the reference books) Germany had a total foreign trade, imports and exports, of about \$4,701,385,000, of which commodities aggregating in value \$4,378,810,000 either had their origin or their final destination within the empire. These figures, no doubt, had increased materially in 1914. It is probably hardly an exaggeration to say that the four billions have been lopped off from each total by the war, leaving only the odd millions as the present total of German commerce. Hamburg, which in 1912 had 15,774 vessels entered at her custom house, with 13,567,913 tonnage, and Bremen, with 3,898 ships and 2,000,127 tons, are today, according to all accounts, as cities of the dead.

## PLENTY FOOD IN BRUSSELS

Due to Splendid Work of American Relief Fund.

(By the Associated Press.)

Brussels, Aug. 14.—Thanks to the splendid work of the American Relief Fund, there is plenty of food in Brussels, and nobody is starving. There is, indeed, no lack of anything, although prices are high.

The consumption of bread is controlled by law, but it is of good quality and ample in quantity. Some moving picture theatres are open, but the regular theatres are all closed. Telephones cannot be used, telegrams cannot be sent or received; the postoffice is under control of the German military authorities.

A large number of German civilians have come to the city, and many of them have found employment, but all the municipal services are still worked by Belgians, and Belgians also police the streets under German military control.

## BARON VON FORSTNER IS KILLED IN BATTLE

(By the Associated Press.)

Berlin, Sept. 4.—via London, 10:30 a. m.—Lieutenant Baron Von Forstner, who gained notoriety as the result of the Zabern incident has been killed in action.

Lieutenant Von Forstner was reported to have been killed near Louvain in September, 1914, but official confirmation was lacking.

The Zabern incident occurred at Zabern, Alsace, where the 9th German infantry under Col. Reuter was stationed in 1913. The citizens of the town had difficulties with the soldiers and showed strong anti-German feeling. Lieutenant Von Forstner provoked several clashes between his men and the inhabitants and told the soldiers to bayonet any one seen insulting the German flag. He himself sabered a lame shoemaker. For this exploit he was tried and sentenced to 42 days imprisonment although strongly upheld by Col. Von Reuter, his commander.

### Three Fingers Sawed Off.

(Special to The News and Observer.)

Elizabeth City, Sept. 4.—J. H. Luton, 22 years old, who lives on Simonds Creek, this county, had three fingers of his left hand sawed off yesterday while operating a wood saw.

## ARMY COMMANDS ARE REORGANIZED BY RUSSIAN CHIEF

Grand Duke Nicholas Removes General Yanushkevitch, His First Aide

GEN. ALXIEFF CALLED TO GENERAL STAFF

Defender of Riga and Baltic Provinces and General Perszky Will Direct Campaign Against German Invasion In North; Czar's Troops To Make Stand Soon

(By the Associated Press.)

London, Sept. 4.—Formal announcement from Petrograd tells of several important changes in the high command of the Russian army overshadowing the immediate reports from the front in importance and interest, in military circles here.

Gen. Yanushkevitch, who has served as chief of staff for the Grand Duke Nicholas since the retirement, because of ill health, of Gen. Ruzsky several months ago, has been removed from office and sent to the comparatively unimportant post of Assistant Viceroy of the Caucasus. His successor is Gen. Alexieff, who until now has been commander-in-chief of the armies on the northwestern front and whose brilliant defense of Riga and the line of the Dvina against Marshal von Hindenburg, it is believed has won his promotion.

### Grand Duke Reorganizing.

These changes, with the return of Gen. Ruzsky, who until his retirement, was one of Russia's most brilliant and popular generals, to active command in the north, are believed here to mean that the Grand Duke Nicholas, while his armies are still retreating, has undertaken to bring about a thorough reorganization of his forces from the top.

This, with the increasing reports of Russia's activity in the manufacture of her own munitions, in the raising and training of new levies of troops, and in the general mobilization of all her industrial resources for war, are believed here to herald better days for the allies on the eastern front in the future.

### Berlin Hints Changes.

A hint of these changes in organization also is contained in a wireless dispatch from Berlin intercepted today. According to this dispatch, the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger reports that the Grand Duke Nicholas is to have a staff of skilled and trained British and French strategists to replace "incapable Russian officers," and British and French experts also are going to Russia to aid in her industrial reorganization and mobilization.

The Petrograd correspondent of the Morning Post also wires, in an optimistic strain, that "the first faint signs may now be detected of what is possibly a change for the better all around on the Russian side."

The appointment of General Alexieff as chief of staff to Grand Duke Nicholas and of General Ruzsky as commander of the Northern armies meets the approval of the Russian press. General Alexieff made a notable reputation in his conduct of the Russian operations against Austria.

The Russian offensive on the right bank of the Viliya river has slowed down but may proceed further. Russian military critics are convinced that the aim of the Germans is to cross the river Dvina, take possession of the railway line between Riga and Dvinsk, capture Vitebsk and also the fortress of Rovno far to the south and entrench for the autumn and winter. Already they are within ten miles of Rovno and are working against the Northern end of the line especially at Lida about fifty miles southeast of Vilna. It is believed here that the Russians have excellent chances of successfully defending the Dvina line.

A conference of Petrograd city councilman and citizens has selected a committee, including Alexander Guchkoff, to prepare a resolution for submission to the council on Wednesday, next. M. Guchkoff criticized the conduct of the war and suggested that a deputation be sent to the Emperor bearing a message in line with that adopted by the council of citizens at Moscow. M. Fialkov, a liberal council man, expressed a desire for a popular expression of the nation's determination to wage the war to a victorious conclusion. His utterances were loudly applauded.

There are about 12,000 lepers in the Philippines and 10,000 in Russia.